

Yugoslavs Denounce Italy Proposal For Withdrawal Of Troops From Trieste

Belgrade Says The Suggestion Is 'Hypocritical'

By ALEX SINGLETON

Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Oct. 25.—Yugoslavia denounced as "hypocritical" tonight an Italian proposal for mutual withdrawal of troops from the tense Italian-Yugoslav border and indicated President Tito's government will reject the idea.

The border, about 75 miles long, extends from disputed Trieste on the south to the Alps on the north. Although much of the border is mountainous, there have been reports of heavy troop concentrations at various points on both sides, since the Italian-Yugoslav dispute over which shall get strategic Trieste reached a new peak of tension in recent weeks.

Belgrade radio, quoting the official Tanjug News Agency, repeated Italy's disclosure of yesterday that Rome had informed Washington, London, and Paris that the Italian troops would be recalled from the frontier if Yugoslavia would follow suit.

The broadcast said Italy had started massing troops on the frontier in August "without any Yugoslav provocation" and that for the following month and a half, Yugoslavia did not make any similar move.

TERMED AGGRESSION

"But," it added, "when on Oct. 8 the decision to give Italy (the British-American occupied) Zone A of Trieste was announced, the Yugoslav government termed this an act of aggression and was forced to undertake measures to protect its interests."

(This somewhat modified the original Yugoslav announcement after the allied decision to evacuate Zone A, when the Belgrade government said any entry of Italian troops into the zone would be considered an act of aggression.)

The radio quoted a Yugoslav foreign office spokesman as saying the new Italian proposal is "a hypocritical one." It added that the Yugoslav counter-action came only after the situation had changed and "Yugoslav interests were jeopardized." The broadcast quoted the spokesman as saying:

"It is further calculated to cover up the reasons which compelled the Yugoslav government in October to take precautionary measures."

"These measures came after the decisions of the United States and British governments to hand Trieste (city) to Italy, which the Italian government immediately accepted."

RIGHTS THREATENED

"After this a situation was created in which the rights and interests of Yugoslavia were seriously threatened and the Yugoslav government justifiably characterized this situation as a threat of aggression."

"The proposal made to withdraw troops, although this danger has not been removed from the Italian side, is consequently obviously hypocritical."

While the foreign office and government-controlled news organs were pouring cold water on the Italian border proposal, Vice President Alexander Rankovic, one of Tito's four top aides, served notice that Yugoslavia will not tolerate Italy's entrance into Trieste "through the back door."

He said Yugoslavia regarded the proposal heard in some quarters to let British and American troops remain in the zone while Italy takes over the civilian administration a back door admission of Italy.

Rankovic addressed a crowd of approximately 50,000 persons at a

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DISPUTED OVER TRIESTE MARS' WESTERN DEFENSE

Italy and Yugoslavia Carry Their Feud
To Point Where It Has Weakened
Southern Flank of NATO Powers

PARTITION SEEN AS SOLUTION

By C. L. SULZBERGER

PARIS, Sept. 5.—The Western defense coalition was painfully reminded during the past week that the political situation accumulating around the Adriatic seaport of Trieste could very well develop into a dangerous cancer.

Unfortunately, although this much has been evident ever since the closing days of World War II, the majority of the medical treatments administered by the diplomatic doctors to the wound have been compounded of patently quick remedies applied in large doses of soothing doubletalk.

In pragmatic terms Trieste is not of any particular economic value to either contestant for its possession, Italy or Yugoslavia. The only nation to which the harbor has immense worth, Austria, lost it thirty-five years ago.

But Trieste is a symbol of Italy's emotional Italian race. After a considerable amount of fuming and dilly-dallying during World War I, Italy pitched in on the Allied side primarily in order to gain possession of the Adriatic and the surrounding area of the Gulf.

Unfulfilled Ambitions
Almost all of Italy's twentieth-century ambitions in Europe have revolved around Trieste and the Adriatic. It was on the other side of the Adriatic Peninsula that Benito Mussolini staged his coup d'état against Rome. Southward from the Alpine hamlets of Briga, he plotted his rise to power through intrigue and imperialism, and then paid off for his ill-fated adventures in the Balkans and Russia.

The Italian people, recognizing that they would have to pay for the policies, did not grumble much about losing their Adriatic. The Dolomites lie on the Alpine hamlets of Briga, and the obviously underdeveloped Balkan possessions in Albania and Yugoslavia. They considerably about giving up Trieste and Istria. Trieste is the final emotional objective point.

Like all frontier regions between hostile races, the Trieste area is a population jumble. From Montefalco to Fiume there are mixed-up plaques of Slavs and Italians, jumbled hinterlands of Croats and Slovenes among which are set concentrated cities and villages of Italians.

Unfortunately, Italy's war-time gains in territory complicated the second-class citizens under the Austro-Hungarian Empire, had this dangerously magnified when Mussolini treated all their brutalities in Yugoslavia as a vindictive spirit accumulated. This showed itself with brutal vindictiveness when the Yugoslav partisans turned against the Duce's army of chocolate soldiers.

Tito's Demands

In 1946, when the victorious powers negotiated peace treaties with the European Axis members except Germany, Trieste and all it represented became an explosive issue. Marshal Tito wanted all of what is now the Free Territory and even some areas to the west. Signor De Gasperi, patiently working as Premier and Foreign Minister of a country which was both a defeated enemy and a victorious co-belligerent, tried to get everything up to Fiume back for Rome.

Fortunately for the Italians, what was soon to be called the "cold war" developed. Sharp arguments between the democracies and Moscow had commenced. And Marshal Tito was at that time Stalin's favorite son.

When it seemed that the tentative project of an Italian peace would be indefinitely delayed unless there were a compromise on Trieste, the present contended Free Territory arrangement was devised with two zones of occupation, one Anglo-American and the other Yugoslav.

The Free Territory was too small to be viable as a protected state. The Italians were disgruntled because they had already lost their ancient cities in Istria, south of Trieste, and were not to have their old seaport. And the Yugoslavs, who had entered Trieste from the east, were not to have it among Allied forces.

and claimed it as the special prize of World War II, were threatened with a brutal end.

The only policy that developed was the partitioned territory was a perpetual stalemate based upon opposition by the Western powers to any project desired by the East—and vice versa. Therefore, the Trieste issue (free since it was impossible), the Big Three announced in March, 1946, their determination to give the entire territory to Italy. The idea was to help Signor De Gasperi with a tough steel which he did.

Unfortunately, in terms of political warfare, Marshal Tito was with Stalin two months later, and claims began to be regarded sympathetically. Belgrade, therefore, pointed out that Italy's irredentism was a somewhat controllable force; that the occupation of Trieste's possession might be a prelude to further claims.

Dangers in Quarrel

The current crisis, begun when Rome reacted with military maneuvers to a costly article one of Tito's propaganda agents, has served to point out the dangers of letting the present situation continue. Obviously the Free Territory cannot go on indefinitely under Anglo-American protection. Secretary of State Dulles has indicated that Italy's plan for the 1948 election is not going to be aided. Of course, this caused rapid in Italy, although everybody knew long ago the West would have to reach.

The obvious basis for any solution will be partition of the Free Territory much along the lines of the present occupation zones, with the city itself going to Italy and some minor frontier adjustments along ethnic lines. Marshal Tito, by suddenly upping his demands in approved Balkan bargaining fashion, seems to have come to the same conclusion, although, of course, he would deny as much vigorously over the coffee cups of the diplomatic bazaar.

The Trieste issue must be settled. The West cannot afford to let the problem remain. And there can never be a satisfactory relationship between Italy, a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Yugoslavia until the matter has been resolved.

Implications for NATO

Italy cannot be defended except by cooperation with Yugoslavia, which holds the vulnerable Kozhans Gap to the Po Valley. Likewise, Italy can never be fully linked to the two Eastern NATO members, Greece and Turkey, except overland across Yugoslavia.

Finally, Yugoslavia is never going to give real meaning to its pact with the Greeks and Turks until its dispute with their Italian ally is regulated. This in itself is extremely important. As Belgrade's recent irritating remarks about Macedonia have shown, the Balkan Entente remains far from solid. Greece was infuriated when Marshal Tito hinted a renewed interest in its northern province.

Thus, during the last week events demonstrated very prettily how weak the political structure

of NATO will be along its southern flank. With recentist nationalism being fanned on both sides of the Free Territory it is time for firm diplomacy. Political surgery must eventually supplant the counsel the Allies have been giving for some days in both Rome and Belgrade, namely, to burn off the hot air.

TWO SHOULDERS



Italian Troops Mass On Yugoslav Border

Tito Move On Trieste Stirs Italy

LONG SMOULDERING

The big port city and the surrounding area in the northern corner of the Adriatic Sea have created a smoldering issue between Italy and Yugoslavia since the war. Between world wars the area was part of Italy. Under terms of the Italian peace treaty of 1947, a Trieste Free Territory was created.

Zone "A," a narrow corridor leading from Italian territory and the city of Trieste itself, was placed under Allied supervision. It is garrisoned by about 5,000 British and 3,000 American troops.

Zone "B," south of the city, was put under Yugoslav supervision — but not as a part of Yugoslav territory. Italy has charged that Yugoslavia has gone a long way towards incorporating the area as her own.

Premier Pella conferred this morning for almost two hours with Defense Minister Emilio Taviani and Gen. Elio Maras, chief of the general staff. Then in quick succession he talked with British Ambassador Sir Victor Mallet and the American and French charge d'affaires.

No statements were issued after the meetings.

Italy has been increasingly uneasy over the Trieste situation since

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Rome, Aug. 29.—Troops of Italy were reported maneuvering along the Yugoslav border tonight in the midst of a newly heated dispute between the two countries over the Trieste Free Territory.

Earlier, Italy sounded an alarm to her Atlantic Pact Allies that Yugoslavia may be planning to seize the Slav zone of Trieste.

Other troops in northeast Italy were held on the alert in barracks, unofficial reports said.

U. S. Diplomats in the Italian capital did not appear alarmed by the mounting Trieste controversy. However, an American spokesman said that U. S. Ambassador Clara Boothe Luce, who is vacationing aboard a chartered yacht on Italian waters, had been informed of the situation and would be able to return to Rome quickly, if necessary.

The reports spread after Premier Giuseppe Pella called in his defense chiefs for urgent talks and conferred with U. S., British and French envoys here. Pella sent a note to the Yugoslav government warning against an "ill-considered and irresponsible act" and said "the reaction of Italy would undoubtedly be that dictated by the feeling of the Italian people."

TROOPS TO FRONTIER

The 114th Infantry Regiment and Armored Battalion reportedly moved out of quarters in Gorizia on the Italy-Yugoslav border during the day and moved along the frontier.

Military authorities said, however, that they were merely undergoing routine exercises.

Earlier tonight Belgrade Radio declared Trieste "remains a component and inalienable part of Yugoslavia."

The broadcast, quoting the newspaper Politika, said Italy is only waiting for a "favorable opportunity to seize this part of Yugoslav territory . . . then continue pursuit of its plans of conquest on the shores of Yugoslavia."

The Italian government focused its fears on a speech President Tito of Yugoslavia is scheduled to make Sept. 6 at a village near the Yugoslav-Italian border. It will be on the 10th anniversary of what Yugoslavia calls the liberation of the Istrian Peninsula from Italy.

The Rome press, blazoning the story across front pages, said it was feared Tito would announce annexation of the Slav zone south of the city of Trieste.

Trieste

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learning that a Yugoslav military mission would confer in Washington with U. S. defense chiefs. The government feared the Trieste subject would come up in the talks despite American assurances that only purely Yugoslav defense problems would be discussed.

There also were fears that Tito would take advantage of Italy's unstable political situation by action on the Trieste issue.

When Pella finally brought the Italian political crisis to a temporary end last week by winning parliamentary votes of confidence, the Italian leader said his new government would be "firm" on Trieste.

Yugopress, the semi-official Yugoslav news agency, said last night that President Tito's government seriously was reconsidering its policy on Trieste. It declared he would outline the new attitude in a major speech Sept. 6.

The news agency said a recent speech of the new Italian premier was regarded in Belgrade as proof that "the appeasing and lenient attitude of Yugoslavia in regard to the non-constructive attitude of Rome cannot lead to settlement of the Trieste problem."

DULLES REASSURES ITALIAN ON TRIESTE

**Tells Envoy 1948 U. S. Policy
on Return of City to Rome
Has Not Been Changed**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5 — The Italian Embassy sought and received today assurances that United States policy pledging the return of Trieste to Italy had not changed.

Mario Luciolli, Minister and Chargé d'Affaires of the Rome diplomatic mission, called on John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, and told reporters later that he was "very glad to hear from the Secretary that the policy of the United States Government has not changed."

The Secretary aroused speculation about this Government's position with respect to Trieste at a news conference on Thursday. He said then, in reply to a question, that the United States had explored alternative policies but had not found one to replace the statement in 1948.

At that time, the United States, Britain and France pledged jointly that Trieste should eventually be returned to Italy. The pledge was made when Yugoslavia, the other contender for the disputed territory, was a member of the Soviet bloc and Italy faced a critical election contest against a strong Communist movement.

Dulles Stressed Friendship

The Italian diplomat said also that Mr. Dulles had stressed the cordial friendship, allegiance and solidarity of the democratic nations.

Mr. Luciolli declined to be drawn into a discussion of his conversa-

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DULLES REASSURES ITALIAN ON TRIESTE

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what was said, it is believed that Mrs. Luce gave Signor Pella the text of the remarks on the Trieste situation made by Mr. Dulles two days ago and was able to assure Signor Pella that Italian deductions drawn from them were exaggerated and that no fundamental change in United States policy on Trieste has taken place.

Signor Pella flew back to Rome from Bari, where he opened the annual Fair of the Levant this morning. In a speech inaugurating the fair, Signor Pella avoided all international questions, except for one phrase that was loudly cheered as a reference to Trieste. He said, "We are working within the framework of international understandings and we shall continue our serene, firm, dignified defense of our peoples' interest."

Troops and police have been alerted by the Allied Military Government in the city of Trieste and in the United States-British-occupied Zone A of the Free Territory for fear that in the present overwrought state of Italian-Yugoslav relations, incidents may occur tomorrow when Marshal Tito, the President of Yugoslavia, is to speak at Ogroglica in Yugoslav territory near the Italian city of Gorizia.

Police were confined to barracks and the entire force will therefore be immediately available if any trouble starts. Troops at the disposal of the Allied Military Government, which are American and British in about equal proportions, were ordered to remain within the territory of Zone A. It will thus be possible to muster another strong force at short notice if the police need help.

Italians Maintain Precautions

The Italians on their side have maintained the military "precautionary measures" that they took last Saturday along their frontier with Yugoslavia. It is predicated

in three special trains that were to depart from Central Station before dawn tomorrow morning.

Western Envoys Call on Yugoslav

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Sept. 5 (AP)—The Belgrade radio said the British and French ambassadors and the United States Charge d'Affaires called again on Koca Popovic, Yugoslav Foreign Secretary.

Yesterday they called at their own request. Today they were invited by M. Popovic. The radio gave no indication of the purpose of the appointments, but the Italian-Yugoslav quarrel over Trieste presumably was discussed.

The radio said an Italian armored division had moved to border stations to reinforce two infantry divisions, described as the Arietta and the Folgore; assault bombers had been stationed at Udine, the military headquarters of north-eastern Italy, and the Italians had strengthened border controls and the patrolling of villages along the boundary between the two nations.

Partisans Gather to Hear Tito

BELGRADE, Sept. 5 (Reuters)—Thousands of Marshal Tito's wartime partisan fighters gathered near the Italian frontier today for rallies due tomorrow.

The partisans converged on the village of Okroglica, near the Italian border, where Marshal Tito is due to address 200,000 persons tomorrow. The event is one of a series of mass demonstrations celebrating the founding of the partisans who fought the Germans in Yugoslavia.